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THE TRIALS OF

William Bythell, William Hartley, William Ladds, and *Thomas Tothill*,

AT THE

SESSIONS-HOUSE in the OLD-BAYLY,

FOR

MISDEMEANORS.

Whereas ſeveral Great Criminals, in the *Seſſions Paper*, are printed under concealed Characters, that were deſigned to be made known as Examples to others; this is by eſpecial Order of the Right Honourable Sir *Thomas Lane*, Kt. Lord Mayor of the City of *London*, publiſhed, that their Names and Trials more at large may appear.

WIlliam Bythell, of the Pariſh of St. *Michaels Cornhil*, in the Ward of *Cornhil*, was Indicted for a Miſdemeanor, for procuring Broad Money, and intending Unlawful Gain and Lucre to himſelf, did on the 4th. of *January* laſt get into his Hands the ſum of One thouſand Pounds of Broad Money, with the intent to diſpoſe of the ſame to Clippers, who would clip and diminiſh the ſame to the great Loſs and Damage of all His Majeſties loving Subjects, and the great decay of Trade. To which Indictment he pleaded not Guilty. And putting himſelf upon his Trial, it appeared, That upon ſearch of Mr. *Bythell*'s Houſe there was found ſeveral Letters, which gave an Account of a Correſpondence that was carried on between one Mr. *Samuel Sympſon* of *Cheſter*, and Mr. *Bythell*. Mr. *Sympſon* produced ſeveral Letters, which he ſaid, upon Oath, came from Mr. *Bythell*; which Letters bore date, The firſt, on the 25th. of *September*, 1694. The ſecond, on the 2d. of *October*, 1694 The third, on the 27th. of *October*, 1694. The fourth, the 3d. of *December*, 1694. The fifth, the 24th. of *January*, 169[illegible]. And the ſixth, the 2d. of *February*, 1694. It farther appeared, by the Letters, That Mr. *Bythell* ſhould allow Mr. *Sympſon* Two Pounds for every Hundred Pound of Broad Money, which he accordingly did. And Mr. *Sympſon* received above Forty Pounds for Commiſſion Money; and Mr. *Bythell* deſired it might be all Broad Money, and no Mill'd Money amongſt it, for that Mill'd Money was not fit for his Payments. It appeared farther, That Mr. *Bythell* being under ſome apprehenſion of ſome Diſcovery being made of this way of Trade, by the miſcarriage of a Letter, he wrote to Mr. *Sympſon* to deſire of him to hold his Hand, and to forbear ſending any more Money, till he ſhould hear farther from him. And after that time directed his Letters to one Mr. *John Murrey*, of *Cheſter*; fearing they were Directed to Mr. *Sympſon*, would be ſtopped and ſearched, and

Matter would be found out. Mr. *Sympſon* ſaid, That he had let him have, at ſeveral times, near Three Thouſand Pounds. Mr. *Bythell* ſaid, That he did it only for the paying of *Dutch* Officers in *Flanders*; but there was no colour or ſhadow of Proof thereof, nor at all reconcileable with his excepting againſt Mill'd Money.

The Trial laſted very long; and the Gentlemen of the Jury brought him in Guilty: And he was Fined One Thouſand Pounds, and to give Sureties for his Good Behaviour for a Twelvemonth.

William Hartley was Indicted for a Miſdemeanor, in procuring and ſelling of Broad Money, with an Intent to make Unlawful Gain thereof, on the 7th day day of *January* laſt, did procure and ſell the Sum of Fifty Pounds of Broad Money, and received the Sum of Seven Pounds and Ten Shillings Advance, over and above the ſaid Fifty Pounds, at the *Queen's-Arms* in *Lombard-ſtreet*. It appeared that Mr. *Hartley* was perſuaded to make this Advantage, which he accordingly did, and ſold the Sum of Fifty Pounds.

He having nothing to ſay for himſelf, the Witneſſes being ſo poſitive againſt him; the Jury found him Guilty, and he was Fined One Hundred Marks, and to remain in Priſon till he pays the ſame.

William Ladds of *Oundle* in the County of *Northampton*, was likewiſe Indicted for a Miſdemeanor, in procuring of Broad Money, and making an Unlawful Gain thereof, by getting into his hands the Sum of One Thouſand Pounds of Broad Money, and ſelling the ſame after the Rate of Fifteen Pounds *per Cent.* over and above the Hundred Pound. It farther appeared, that thoſe Perſons to whom he ſold the Broad Money, could make a far greater Advantage by it, by ſelling of it again at the ſecond-hand for Two and Twenty Pounds Ten Shillings *per Cent.* And that Mr. *Ladds* had had at ſeveral times between Two and Three Thouſand Pounds of Broad Money.

The Evidence being ſo poſitive againſt him, he had nothing to ſay for himſelf; ſo he was found Guilty, and Fined Two Hundred Marks, and to find Sureties for a Twelvemonth.

Thomas Cothill, alias **Cotle**, was Indicted for a Miſdemeanor, in procuring and buying of Broad Money, to the Intent that the ſame ſhould be Clipt and Diminiſhed, to the unſpeakable Injury of the King's good Subjects, and the great Decay of Trade. It was proved he gave the Sum of One Hundred Twenty Two Pounds and Ten Shillings, for One Hundred Pounds of Broad Money, to be paid by Bills on Goldſmiths. And that he gave the Sum of One Hundred Twenty Five Pounds, for every Hundred Pounds that he paid in Narrow or Clipt Money. There being Oath made of this before the Right Honourable the Lord Chief-Juſtice, and that he was a great Trader in this way, he was ſeized by the Lord Chief-Juſtice's Warrant, and brought to the *Kings Head* Tavern at *Chancery lane-end*, and being come there, and diſcourſed a while, he endeavoured to hide his Two Pocket Books in the Chimney, in which Books were Accompts he kept with ſome of his Journeymen, as he called them, which were ſuſpected to be Clippers, and there was found behind the Looking glaſs in the Room an Accompt of his about Stuff, *&c.* which Stuff, *&c.* was explained to be Clippings and Clipt Money. There was likewiſe found a great Key of an Iron Cheſt about him, which did belong to a Cheſt he had ſtanding at the *Bull-Head* in *Lothbury*, a Houſe he very much frequented, and where he uſed to pay off his Journeymen, and in which Cheſt he kept Broad Money.

It was proved that the Clippers could Clip One Hundred and Sixty Ounces of Silver off of a Hundred Pound of Broad Money. It was further proved againſt him, that one perſon had in about a Year and three quarters time, furniſhed him with betwixt Twenty and Thirty Thouſand Pounds of Broad Money, on the Terms aforeſaid; upon which Evience he was found Guilty, Fined One Thouſand Pounds, and to lie in Cuſtody till he pay the ſame, and find Sureties for his good Behaviour for a Twelvemonth.

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